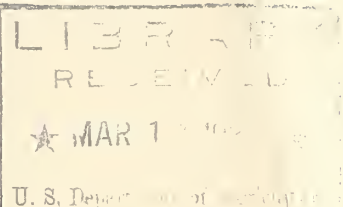


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
W3733



FEBRUARY WEATHER

A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered through WRC and 32 other stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, at 12:55 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Wednesday, March 5, 1930.

How do you do, folks! A month ago we told you about the extremely cold weather of January, but to-day, there is a different story to tell. However, I suppose this peculiar habit the weather has, of jumping abruptly from one extreme to another, is responsible for its popularity as a topic of conversation; at least, if it were not for this, there would be fewer interesting things to say about the weather.

So far this year, we have had an unusual demonstration of the extremes of which the weather is capable, for very seldom do two months show such great contrasts in temperature conditions as were experienced in January and February. The former was extremely cold over large areas between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains, and the latter part of the month was cold in most eastern districts; it was one of the coldest Januaries of record over considerable sections. In contrast to this, February was abnormally warm practically everywhere, being the warmest of record over the central-western areas where the extremely cold weather prevailed during the preceding month. The warmth for the month was widespread, covering all sections of the country, but was relatively greatest from Oklahoma northward and northwestward where the monthly mean temperatures were 12° to as much as 19° above normal. Over much of this area February was from 25° to more than 30° warmer than January, while normally it is only 2° or 3° warmer. The last part of the month had temperatures corresponding to the normal for the last of April, and previous maximum records were broken over extensive areas.

In the East, zero temperatures were experienced in Appalachian Mountain districts as far south as West Virginia, and in the West to central Missouri, but the Ohio Valley and central Great Plains did not have temperatures as low as zero at any time during the month, while in the Southeast freezing extended only to extreme northern Florida. Heretofore, in February, zero temperatures have occurred as far south as Mobile, Ala., while a temperature as low as 60° below zero has been experienced in some northwestern sections.

Precipitation during February was very unevenly distributed geographically. Some sections of the Ohio Valley, parts of the lower Mississippi Valley, the central and southern Florida Peninsula, some interior districts of the more western States, and more generally a considerable area west of the upper Lake region had more than normal. The last named-section, especially, had from two to three times the usual amount of precipitation for the month; elsewhere the falls were generally below normal, and decidedly so in some sections.

Under the influence of the abnormally warm weather, vegetation, the latter part of the month, made unusually rapid advance throughout the central and southern portions of the country, and some growth was in evi-

(over)

dence, even in the more northern States. Fruit buds showed a decided swelling in the central valley areas, with some early plum trees blooming as far north as the lower Ohio Valley. Trees were reported as prematurely blooming as far north as northern Texas, and also in some heavy-producing sections of the Southeast. From the standpoint of fruit, the warmth was decidedly unfavorable in prematurely forcing buds and blossoms.

Much of the month was favorable for outside operations, and spring work on farms made good progress in many sections, though plowing was not active in some central valley areas, because of the wet condition of the soil. Some early truck crops were planted as far north as southern Maryland, and some oats were sown northward to Kansas and North Carolina. Grass and wheat fields showed a decided greening in central Valley sections, while the warm, open, and springlike conditions were unusually favorable for grazing interests in the great western range country. The condition of winter wheat continued satisfactory in most sections, though there were complaints of unfavorable freezing and thawing in the Ohio Valley, and of considerable winterkilling in south-central and southeastern Kansas. Wheat needs rain in parts of the Southwest, especially in the western portions of Oklahoma and Texas.

About the first of March there was a sudden reaction to cold weather rather generally over the United States. This cool wave brought freezing weather nearly to the Gulf coast, and there has apparently been more or less harm to early fruit in the Southern States from South Carolina to Oklahoma, but the general extent of damage has not yet been ascertained. In Georgia harm to peaches has apparently been very moderate, but in South Carolina there is considerable apprehension, as most peach trees are in full bloom in that State, and the temperature fell to 20° in extreme northern parts. In the heavy producing sections of North Carolina peach buds are showing color, but mostly are not open, and damage there probably has not been great. There is some apprehension in south-central sections, and harm to early fruit is reported from the Southwest. Where trees were not yet in bloom, including the Pacific Northwest, the cold weather was favorable in checking further premature advance. During the last few days growth of vegetation has slowed up materially rather generally over the United States, and farm work has been rather inactive. This is about all the weather we can pack into a five-minute period, so, good-bye, until next month.